



# Resiliency

Ecological Resiliency = Ag Resiliency  
Watershed Health from Top to Bottom

# Top

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- Forest Health
    - Pre-commercial thinning on overstocked pine forests
      - Reduce chance of catastrophic wildfire
      - Extend snowpack
      - Improve infiltration of precipitation
      - Increase wildlife habitat
  - Rangeland Health
    - Brush Management (Juniper cutting)
      - Capture, store and safe release (sponge)
      - Improve perennial understory survivability
      - Increase forage production
      - Increase water quantity
      - Improve water quality
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# Top cont.

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- Water
  - Livestock water and Wildlife water
    - Improve livestock distribution and grazing management
    - Reduce potential stress on surface water
    - Provide protected water sources for wildlife
- Mesic meadows
  - Low tech process based restoration (ex: beaver dam analogs)
    - Emulate/replicate beaver
    - Sponge effect (capture, store and safe release)
    - Reconnect floodplains
    - Water quality



# Bottom/ Valley Floor



## Irrigation

- Improve efficiencies
- Improve forage/crop production
- Potentially decrease irrigation water needs
- Potentially improve water quality



## Soil health

- Cover crops
- No-till/reduced tillage farming systems
- Alternative crops
- Nutrient management
- Pest management
- Reduced soil erosion
- Increase water quality
- Increase water infiltration

# Bottom cont.

- Riparian
  - Low tech process based restoration (depends on system size)
  - Sponge
  - Reconnect floodplain (nature irrigates)
  - Habitat (terrestrial and aquatic)
  - Fencing
  - Plantings
- Wetlands
  - Habitat (terrestrial and aquatic)
  - Filtration system
  - Cultural
  - Livestock forage



# NRCS Tools

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- 2018 Farm Bill Program (new one soon)
- Augmented by Inflation Reduction monies (Climate Smart) i.e. IRA-EQIP
  - Nationally:
    - 2023 = \$250 million
    - 2024 = \$1.75 billion
    - 2025 = \$3 billion
    - 2026 = \$3.45 billion
- County funding is strategically dedicated via the Conservation Implementation Strategies developed at the local level with partners and landowners
- Traditionally fund:
  - Forest practices
  - Rangeland practices
  - Riparian practices
  - Irrigation practices
  - Soil erosion practices
  - Cropping practices

# NRCS Tools cont.

- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
  - Partner led effort
  - Leverages other strands of funding for at least a one to one match with NRCS dollars
  - Natural outgrowth of the Conservation Implementation Strategy
  - Large projects
    - Can be up to \$10 million (NRCS dollars)
  - Traditionally used to fund EQIP type practices



# NRCS Tools cont.

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
  - Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE)
    - \$3 million for acquisition annually in the State
    - Approx. 54,000 acres enrolled in the Klamath Basin
    - help private and tribal landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.
    - Owner may reserve grazing rights if consistent with the historical natural uses of the land and the long-term protection and enhancement goals for which the easement was established
      - Commensurate reduction in the easement payment to account for grazing value
  - Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)
    - The purpose: to keep Ag lands in production

